Shoujo Sense
HC HANATOYUME COMICS 別冊花とゆめ
Usotoki Rhetoric
by Miyako Ritsu
2
Chapter 7
Provider: hemony
Translator: Den
Proofreader: Mai
Cleaner: hemony
Re-drawer: Nozomi Raba
Typesetter: bealovelylady
QCer: hemony
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Chapter 7

SFX: RUSTLE

It's good if I am here and

crackle

I am using my powers of being able to hear lies

to live and repay my debts.

SFX: WHOOSH

crackle

I used my powers to help the detective.

crackle

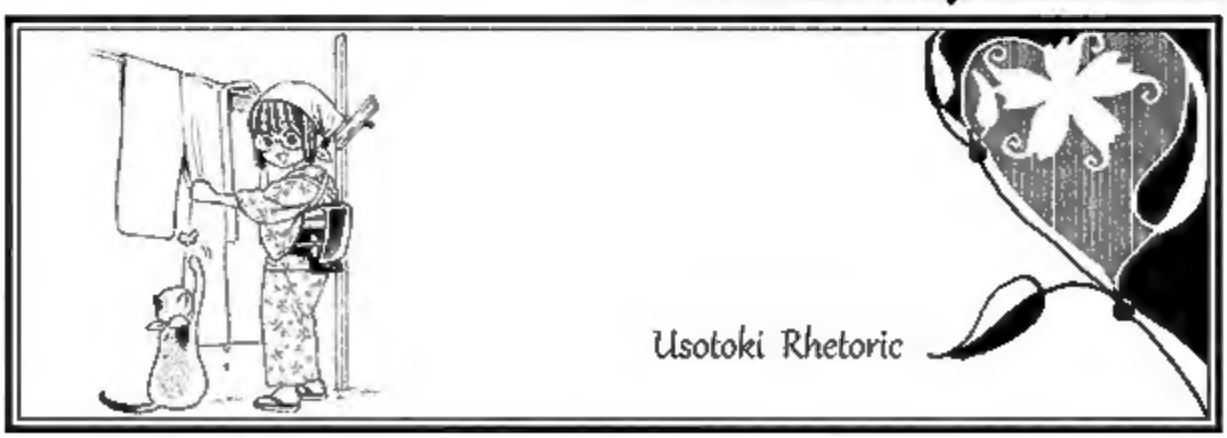
And we solved the case.

I-

I was in good spirits.

crackle

rustle



YEAH!
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: SHA
ABOVE YOU, KANOKO-KUN!!
SAME CHIME AND COLLAR.
SAME MARK-INGS;
YEP, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT.

IT'S THE CAT OF THE RICH GUY LIVING BESIDE MY LANDLORD.
IT RAN AWAY AND HE ASKED ME TO FIND IT.
huff
huff
huff
huff
AND IT ONLY TOOK US A DAY TO FIND HER!
GOOD THING SHE DIDN'T RUN FAR.
THAT'S PROBABLY ENOUGH TO CANCEL THIS MONTH'S RENT.
HEY, KANOKO-KUN.
Thank GOOdness.
I COULD HAVE GOTTEN MONEY OUT OF IT IF HE JUST ASKED US DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF THROUGH MY LANDLORD.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOUR LANDLORD AND HANA-SAKI-SAN.
IF WE HOLD THIS CAT HOSTAGE, DO YOU THINK WE CAN GET A GOOD RANSOM FOR IT?

OKAY!
LET'S BRING THIS CAT BACK AND THEN EAT SOME TSUKUMO-YAKI*.
*NOTE: A FRIED FOOD.
Just tell me if you have a job for me.
Hello.
Yep!
Lots of free time today, Sou-chan?
THAT'S...
Tsukumoyaki.
Tsukumoyaki.

LONG TIME NO SEE!
SOUMA-SAMAAAAA!
Tsuku
FUJI-SHIMA CHIYO!!
CHIYO-SAN!!

SFX: WHAM
UMPFF!
SO...
WHAT? THAT'S...
dash
dash
IGNORE HER, IGNORE HER. WE DON'T NEED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER!
GAH!!
CHIYO-SAN!!

HERE, LET ME SEE.
O, OWWW.
I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEP,
IT'S NOT BROKEN AND IT'S NOT BLEED-ING.
DOES THIS HURT? DOES THIS HURT?
YOUR NOSE IS SO CUTE, IT JUMPED AWAY.
WELL I'M IN A HURRY, SO
YOU'LL BE FINE!
SEE YA!

Thank you, Kanoko-san
OH NO, I FELL IN FRONT OF SOUMA-SAMA.
AH, YOUR BAG...
CHIYO-SAN!
...
Geaah~
We got our-selves invol-ved.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT IS WITH THAT GUY...
DID HE REALLY THINK I WAS A KID?
I didn't notice the bag.
IS THIS YOURS TOO, CHIYO-SAN?
A MIRROR?

Chiyo-san?!
THIS MUST BE A FATEFUL ENCOUNTER.
THIS ISN'T MINE.
WHAT BEAUTIFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP
SO THAT MAN MUST HAVE DROPPED THIS.
The protagonist searched for clues to find out the owner of an item that was dropped,
I'VE READ ABOUT THIS BEFORE ...
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
and as she found out more and more about the owner,
she fell in love.
The man, in return, also fell in love with the woman who found his precious treasure.
gyaaa~
ISN'T IT LOVELY?!
LET'S ALL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
LET'S SEARCH FOR CLUES!

I WONDER IF THERE'S A CLUE SOME-WHERE...
Hmmm.
ISN'T THAT MAN A PLAS-TERER?
Isn't this just you being in love?!
Truth?
CHARGING HEAD ON, AS USUAL ...
LET'S FIND OUT THE HIDDEN TRUTH!!
AND HE CAME FROM THAT DIRECTION.
DO YOU KNOW HIM, SOUMA-SAMA?!
THERE WAS SOME PLASTER STUCK ON HIS LEFT ARM.
Great powers of observation, as usual!

With my power.

OKAY!
no one can get away with lying to Chiyo-san.
OKAY THEN!! WE'LL BE A COUPLE OF FEMALE DETEC-TIVES!!
Too bothersome
Run, run.
Okay
Let's go!
I can probably be
of some help to Chiyo-san.
A YOUNG
PLAG-IARIST?

DO WE HAVE SOME-ONE LIKE THAT?
YEAH, WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE LIKE THAT
YOU'RE THE YOUNG-EST HERE, AREN'T YOU, TOME-CHAN?
IF HE'S NOT A PLAS-TERER HERE,
THEN WE'VE HIT A DEAD END.
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER CLUE.
He's much younger
"There was some plaster stuck on his left arm."
Ah.
JUST BECAUSE HE HAD SOME PLASTER ON HIS ARM,
DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE'S ACTUALLY A PLASTER-ER!!
HE HAD REDDISH HAIR.
OH, THEN MAYBE ...
DID HE HAVE A PONY-TAIL?
SFX CLAP
YES! THAT'S HIM!!
HE'S DOESN'T WORK HERE
HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE UP THERE TO LEARN TO READ AND WRITE
SAID HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A DECENT JOB IF HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO READ
IN THE MEANTIME, HE S BEEN DOING A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT JOBS.

TONE-CHAN WAS PLAYING AROUND WITH HIM WITH OUR PLASTER
YEAH, HIS NAME IS RICHI
HE TOLD US HE WAS RENTING A ROOM
IN THAT STORE BY THE RIVER ACROSS THAT BRIDGE.
YOU'RE AMAZING, KANOKO-SAN!
YOU REALLY ARE SOUMA-SAN'S ASSISTANT!!
I'M HAPPY I COULD HELP!!
COM-ING
RIICHI-CHAAAN.
YOU HAVE SOME GUESTS
OKAY
OKAY
OKAAAY

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
WE'RE A COUPLE OF FEMALE DETEC-TIVES!
SFX CLATTER 2X
munch
munch
OH, YOU'RE FROM THIS MORNING.
DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?
THANK YOU...
fwish
AH, YES!
I WAS LOOK-ING FOR THAT!

It's not suspicious !!
WHY DOES A MAN LIKE YOU OWN SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
THIS IS SUSPI-CIOUS!!
It's not suspicious, Chiyo-san!!
He wasn't lying when he said he was looking for it!!
panic
panic
What should I say...
YOU CAN'T DECEIVE A DETEC-TIVE'S EYE!!
That mirror is his!
THIS,
fwip
WAH!

That's a lie.
Heh.
IT'S A MEMENTO FROM MY MOTHER. THANK YOU!
I'M SORRY.
I GUESS WE'VE INTRUDED TOO MUCH.
OH,
CAN YOU STOP TREATING ME LIKE A CAT?
But
pat
pat
AN APPROPRIATE APOLOGY! GOOD GIRL, GOOD GIRL!
wanna eat some sweets
what he said before wasn't a lie.
That means it's his... right?
"I was looking for that."

WE DID GOOD!!
AND THIS MITSU-MAME** HAS ORANGES IN IT TOO!!
THE GELIDIUM JELLY* HAS VINEGAR AND SOY SAUCE!
I APPRECIATE IT! THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!
Let's eat!
THE LEAST I COULD DO IS TREAT YOU TO LUNCH AFTER YOU CAME ALL THE WAY WITH ME!
I'M SO FULL!
BY THE WAY, CHIYO-SAN, WHY WERE YOU IN TSU-KUMOYA TODAY?
They lie to keep up appearances, to be polite.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IT'S SO GOOD
When there are people, there are always lies.
I'M FINE, IT'S NOTH-NG.
!!
And...

*NOTE: GELIDIUM JELLY, CALLED TOKOROTEN, ARE NOODLES MADE FROM AGAR JELLY (EXTRACTED FROM SEAWEED)

**NOTE: MITSUMAME IS A JAPANESE DESSERT WITH SMALL CUBES OF AGAR JELLY AND SERVED WITH BOILED AZUKI BEANS, DANGO, AND FRUIT. A SMALL POT OF SWEET BLACK SYRUP OR KUROMITSU, IS SERVED WITH IT AND IS POURED ON THE JELLY BEFORE EATING

excited
I WENT TO VISIT A FRIEND AND SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD A PROBLEM.
So we have a new job...
SO I TALKED TO SOUMA.
SOMETHING GOOD WILL COME OUT OF IT SOON.
She couldn't keep a secret
IT'S A SECRET
THAT'S SOME TROUBLING CONVERSATION.
IT REALLY WAS.
MY BAG WAS DISCARDED NEARBY, BUT
A THIEF?!
A YOUNG MAN TOOK MY BAG! I WAS SO SCARED!
HOW TERRIBLE.
MY FAVORITE HAND MIRROR WASN'T THERE ANYMORE.

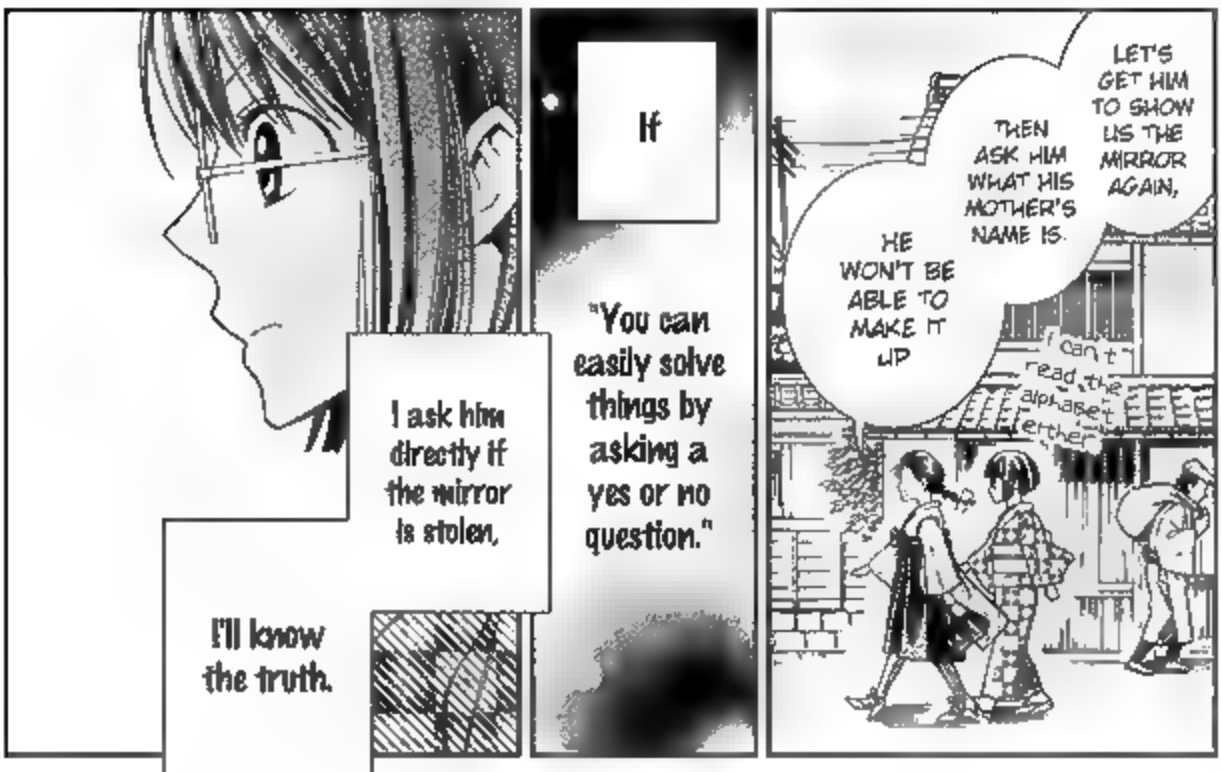
That sounds

like the same mirror...

It's the same mirror.
IT WAS THIS SMALL,
WITH CARVINGS ON IT OF DIFFERENT PLANTS.
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE MIRROR LOOKED LIKE?
WHO ARE YOU?
WE ARE A COUPLE OF DETECTIVES!!
THE WORD "TATUE" IS INSCRIBED
ON THE FRONT PART OF THE HANDLE.
TATUE
his lie doesn't add up...
But
"I was looking for this."
"It's a memento from my mother."
Cloudy
A detective would have remembered
I can't remember ...
CAN YOU REMEMBER IF . ?
THAT WORD .

He stole it!
IT'S DEFINITELY THE SAME MIRROR!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE JUST HELPED HIM STEAL SOMETHING!
LET'S GO TALK TO HIM AGAIN AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

IF THAT MAN CAN'T READ KANJI LETTERS,
THEN HE PROBABLY CAN'T READ THE ALPHABET EITHER.


LET'S GET HIM TO SHOW US THE MIRROR AGAIN,
THEN ASK HIM WHAT HIS MOTHER'S NAME IS.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT UP
I can't read the alphabet either.
If
"You can easily solve things by asking a yes or no question."
I ask him directly if the mirror is stolen.
I'll know the truth.

LET'S VERIFY THIS, THEN INFORM THE POLICE
SFX WHACK
YES I JUST TRIP-PED!
YOU'RE A STRONG GIRL! LOVELY TOO!
CHIYO-SAN.
I'm just fell out of no where
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CAN YOU STAND?
LOOK AT WHAT'S TUCKED IN HER CLOTHES

CAN I SEE IT?
NO!!
I JUST WANT TO LOOK.
stare
FWIP
MY BROTHER GAVE IT TO ME.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT MIRROR?!
IT'S MAMA'S MIRROR!
BROTHER TOLD ME TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!!
Mama's mirror?
Brother?
I TOLD YOU I JUST WANTED TO LOOK AT IT!
Hmph!
NOOO !!

THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN ON THE HANDLE.
I...
CHIYO-SAN, THAT'S ...
HUH?
Could it be?

WHAT THE HELL
AH
ARE YOU TWO DOING?
BROTHER!
I made a terrible mistake.

SORRY
VERY
WE'RE REALLY

A-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS A THIEF?!

I FINALLY UNDER-STAND.
WHY YOU KEEP TREATING US LIKE KIDS.

SO I WAS SUSPI-CIOUS?
hahaha
THAT'S PRETTY TROUBLE-SOME!!
BUT IT'S FINE. IF THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU THOUGHT I WAS A THIEF

GOOD GIRLS!
BUT YOU BOTH APOLO-GIZED SINCE-RELY.

People tell different kinds of lies.
Malicious lies, white lies, lies of vanity...
YEP, PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE YAIKO.
ESPECIALLY HERE
tonk
tonk
ha-haha
...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

YAIKO
And
ISN'T MY LITTLE SISTER.
lies to protect secrets.

A WHILE AGO, SHE ASKED, "WHERE'S MOMMY?"
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME WHEN I WAS A KID, SO I DECIDED TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
TWO YEARS AGO, YAIKO'S MOM LEFT HER AND DISAPPEARED.
With her suitcase and everything
SHE LIVED WITH HER MOTHER IN THE HOUSE BEHIND THE STORE I'M IN

"Don't worry, the mirror is hurt, but it will get better!"
I had the mirror repaired and claimed it today from the restorer
Kyaaaaa!!
But recently Yuko broke the mirror
Late last year I had a job cleaning up the garbage blocking the waterways and I found that mirror
I gave it to Yuko and told her it was from her mom
I told her it was a keepsake from her mother.
So that's why
I'm really sorry
"Don't tell anyone, Kaeko-chan."

Riichi-san said that,

smiled, and forgave me. But...

L..
YOU WERE LATER THAN EXPECTED.
I WAS GETTING WORRIED, MISS.
SO YOU WERE WITH URABE-SAMA.
I APOLOGIZE AGAIN FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED THAT TIME
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU WELL, KOU-KICHI-SAN!
I'M BACK AT WORK.
YES, THANKS TO YOU
THANK YOU.
I CAN ALSO DRIVE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION, URABE-SAMA.
AH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO!!
I... WANTED TO TAKE A WALK SO
WELL THEN, WE WILL BE GOING.
PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO SOUMA-SAMA!

1
Bye!
should never have
accused Richi
of being a thief.
"Let's find out!"
I heard him tell a lie
"It's a memento from my mother."

There are things
and convinced myself that I was right.
that can deceive me
precisely because I can see through lies.
"How can I tell you're not lying, Kanoko?!"
"Life would be so much happier if we can't detect lies."
"It's definitely the same mirror!"
I hurt someone

I'M SO HUN-GRYYY, INARI
I WANNA EAT AT KURATA~
I wish I gave you a more delicious sounding name.
again!
This is a curse!!

Detective
KANOKO-CHAN
IS STILL OUT THIS LATE.

deserve
do I really
to work as a detective's assistant?
Chapter 7 / END